

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA**

TIM PETERSON, on behalf of himself and all  
others similarly situated,

*Plaintiff,*

v.

LEARFIELD COMMUNICATIONS, LLC *et.*  
*al,*

*Defendants.*

No. 8:23-cv-146-BCB-MDN

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA’S NOTICE OF INTERVENTION**

Pursuant to Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 5.1(c) and 24(a)(1), 28 U.S.C. § 2403(a), and in accordance with the authorization of the Solicitor General of the United States, the United States of America hereby intervenes in this case for the limited purpose of defending the constitutionality of the Video Privacy Protection Act (“VPPA”), 18 U.S.C. § 2710.

Plaintiff filed a complaint against Learfield Communications, LLC and Sidearm Sports, LLC (collectively “Learfield”) and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of Nebraska-Lincoln Department of Athletics (collectively “University Defendants”) on April 16, 2022. Compl., ECF No. 1. On August 8, 2023, Plaintiff voluntarily dismissed the University Defendants. ECF No. 36. On August 14, 2023, Learfield moved to dismiss Plaintiff’s Complaint under Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 12(b)(1), (6), and (7), raising statutory and constitutional arguments. Mot. to Dismiss, ECF No. 38. Learfield filed a notice of constitutional challenge pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 5.1, explaining that its motion to dismiss “questions the constitutionality of the [VPPA]” and “argue[s] that the VPPA is an unconstitutional restraint

on speech in violation of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution.” ECF No. 39 at 1.

The United States is entitled to intervene in this case pursuant to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and relevant statutes. Rule 5.1(c) permits the Attorney General to intervene in an action where, as here, the constitutionality of a federal statute is challenged. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 24 permits a non-party to intervene when the non-party “is given an unconditional right to intervene by a federal statute.” FED. R. CIV. P. 24(a)(1). The United States has an unconditional statutory right to intervene “[i]n any action . . . wherein the constitutionality of an Act of Congress affecting the public interest is drawn in question.” 28 U.S.C. § 2403(a). In such an action, “the court . . . shall permit the United States to intervene . . . for argument on the question of constitutionality.” *Id.* Accordingly, the United States hereby provides notice of intervention in this matter for the limited purpose of defending the VPPA’s constitutionality. Accompanying this notice is the United States’ memorandum in support of the constitutionality of the VPPA.

Date: October 13, 2023

Respectfully submitted,

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Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Civil Division

LESLEY FARBY  
Assistant Branch Director  
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/s/ Bonnie E. Devany  
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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that on October 13, 2023, I electronically transmitted the attached document to the Clerk's Office using the CM/ECF System for filing and transmittal of a Notice of Electronic Filing to the CM/ECF registrants for this matter.

/s/ Bonnie E. Devany  
BONNIE E. DEVANY